

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 TRSE-00

AID-05 /106 W

-----050048 231045Z /13

R 221730Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0346

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 4982

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAV : PDIP, OAU, MARR, US, SG

SUBJECT: SENGHOR CAUTIONS US ON ATTENTION TO AFRICAN HARDLINERS

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, PRESIDENT SENGHOR EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER US "CARESSING" AFRICAN HARDLINERS WHEN MODERATES ARE TRYING TO ASSERT THEMSELVES. HE SAID HE WOULD REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE MPLA AS LONG AS CUBAN TROOPS REMAIN. WEST AFRICAN NON-AGGRESSION AND MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT WAS NEEDED TO COUNTER THREAT FROM ALGERIA AND LIBYA. ACTIONS AT OAU SUMMIT WERE ONLY BEGINNING OF ACTIVISM BY REASONABLE AFRICAN LEADERS, SENGHOR SAID. BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF US COULD FIND WAYS OF
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EXPRESSING ENCOURAGEMENT TO NEWLY ASSERTIVE MODERATES.
END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER FORMALITIES OF CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION JULY 22, PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND I HAD PRIVATE CONVERSATION IN HIS OFFICE. SENGHOR'S MAIN THEME WAS SAME AS HE HAD EXPOUNDED TO AMB. AGGREY ON JULY 7 (DAKAR 4639). HE IS AN ENTHUSIAST

ABOUT THE OVERALL CARTER FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN ELEMENTS. BUT HE FEELS UNEASY ABOUT WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS THE "US CARESSING THE MARXIST LENINISTS AND OTHER HARDLINERS IN AFRICA JUST WHEN THE MODERATES ARE TRYING TO ASSERT THEMSELVES FOR COLLECTIVE DEFENSE, DIPLOMATICALLY, POLITICALLY, AND EVEN MILITARILY."

3. SENGHOR SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD ANGOLA WHERE, IN HIS OPINION, THE MPLA IS ON ITS LAST LEGS. HE SAID HE REMAINS A GOOD FRIEND OF SAVIMBI AND UNITA. HE ALLOWS SAVIMBI TO KEEP AN OFFICE RUNNING IN DAKAR, NOT TO PROVIDE ARMS, "BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY TO PROVIDE", BUT TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN UNITA AND THE OTHER ELEMENTS IN ANGOLA. SENGHOR SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE MPLA AS LONG AS THERE IS NO NATIONAL RECONCILIATIONS, AND AS LONG AS CUBAN TROOPS REMAIN.

4. ON THE SUBJECT OF COLLECTIVE DEFENSE, SENGHOR SAID WEST AFRICAN FRANCOPHONES AND MOROCCO WERE FORCED TO SIGN A NON-AGGRESSION MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO COUNTER THE THREAT FROM ALGERIA AND LIBYA. SENGHOR WAS PARTICULARLY VEHEMENT ABOUT ALGERIA WHICH HE ACCUSED OF THREATENING NIGERIESE PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE SUFFICIENTLY TO FORCE HIM TO STAY OUT OF THE AGREEMENT.
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5. AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF ASSERTIVENESS ON PART OF MODERATES, SENGHOR POINTED TO HIS RESOLUTION AT LIBREVILLE OAU SUMMIT CONDEMNING FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFRICAN PROBLEMS. HE TOLD ME THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF MORE CONCERTED ACTION BY THE REASONABLE LEADERS OF AFRICA.

6. I TOLD SENGHOR THAT ON BASIS MY CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, I COULD ASSURE HIM THAT ACTION OF MODERATE LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED. HE SHOULD NOT MISINTERPRET OUR EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH HARDLINE GOVERNMENTS AS A SLIGHT AGAINST OUR GOOD FRIENDS SUCH AS HIMSELF.

7. COMMENT: SENGHOR IS EXAGGERATING FOR RHETORICAL PURPOSES WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT THE "US CARESSING THE RADICALS IN AFRICA." BUT IF HE IS RIGHT WHEN HE SAYS THAT HIS OAU NON-INTERVENTION RESOLUTION IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF MORE ASSERTIVENESS BY THE MODERATES, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF THE USG COULD FIND A VISIBLE MEANS OF EXPRESSING ENCOURAGEMENT.

8. SEPTELS CONTAIN SENGHOR'S PREPARED STATEMENT AT
CEREMONY AND HIS PRIVATE REMARKS ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES
WITH RESPECT TO NAMIBIA AND THE POLISARIO PROBLEM.
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